

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 07910 01 OF 02 171723Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01

TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 AF-06

ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 /153 W

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R 171640Z OCT 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 633

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MTN GENEVA 7910

PASS STR; H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: MTN: AVAILABILITY OF STATISTICS FOR SECTORAL STUDIES

GATT SECRETARIAT HAS ISSUED SUBJECT DOCUMENT AS MTN/SEC/W/4
DATED 10 OCTOBER 1975. TEXT FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

1. A PROPOSAL CALLING FOR STUDIES OF SECTORS COVERING ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, ELECTRONICS AND CHEMICALS WAS PUT FORWARD AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE GROUP ON 1-3 JULY 1975. THE GROUP AGREED TO REVERT TO THE ISSUE AT ITS NEXT MEETING IN WHICH IT WISHED TO EXAMINE IN PARTICULAR, THE EXISTING STATISTICAL DOCUMENTATION ON PRODUCTION AND TRADE IN THE SECTORS. THE PRESENT NOTE REVIEWS THE STATISTICAL INFORMATION CURRENTLY COLLECTED AND PUBLISHED BY NATIONAL AUTHORITIES, THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE OECD.

2. THE AVAILABILITY OF STATISTICS REQUIRED FOR SECTORAL STUDIES
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PAGE 02 MTN GE 07910 01 OF 02 171723Z

WAS DESCRIBED IN BROAD TERMS IN THE SECRETARIAT NOTE OF 3

FEBRUARY 1975 (MTN/3C/1). A DETAILED SURVEY OF THE DATA AVAILABLE WITH RESPECT TO INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN THE COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE TARIFF STUDY, BASED ON REPLIES TO A QUESTIONNAIRE, WAS PUBLISHED IN 1972 IN CONNEXION WITH THE FEASIBILITY STUDY (SPEC(72)32 AND ADD.1). FINALLY THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE COMPILATION OF TIME SERIES OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION STATISTICS, CONCORDED TO THE TARIFF AND TRADE DATA WERE ILLUSTRATED IN DOCUMENTS (SPEC(72)130) BY COLLATING PRODUCTION AND APPARENT CONSUMPTION STATISTICS FOR A NUMBER OF SITC SUB-GROUPS SELECTED FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS OF INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY AND COVERING A WIDE RANGE OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS INCLUDING CHEMICALS, ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AND ELECTRONICS.

3. THE FOLLOWING GENERAL CONCLUSIONS WERE REACHED IN THESE PAPERS WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES:

(I) TARIFF MEASURES CAN, IN GENERAL, BE RELATED TO TRADE FLOWS FOR ALL ITEMS OF NATIONAL CUSTOMS TARIFFS; SOME NON-TARIFF MEASURES CAN ALSO BE SO CORRELATED; A LARGE PROPORTION OF THOSE NON-TARIFF BARRIERS WHICH HAVE BEEN RECORDED BY THE SECRETARIAT ARE OF GENERAL APPLICATION AND CANNOT BE DIRECTLY RELATED TO PARTICULAR PRODUCTS OR SECTORS (L/3496, PARA. 12), BUT HAVE TO BE CITED FOR THE SECTOR AS A WHOLE.

(II) DETAILED PRODUCTION DATA CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED FOR SELECTED PRODUCTS WHICH MAY BE REPRESENTATIVE FOR SOME -- BUT NOT FOR ALL -- INDUSTRY SECTIONS SINCE PRODUCTION STATISTICS ARE NOT YET COMPILED IN THE SAME DETAIL AS THE CUSTOMS AND FOREIGN TRADE DATA. IN COUNTRIES COLLECTING DETAILED OUTPUT STATISTICS CERTAIN INFORMATION CANNOT BE DISCLOSED BECAUSE OF SECRECY PROVISIONS PROTECTING SUCH INFORMATION IN CASES WHERE A LIMITED NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES ARE INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION PROCESS, OR ARE NOT FULLY REPORTED WHEN PRODUCTION IS DISPERSED AMONG SMALL ESTABLISHMENTS EXEMPT FROM STATISTICAL REPORTING; REPORTING OF INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTS IS OFTEN INCOMPLETE IF THE PRODUCTION PROCESS IS HIGHLY INTEGRATED.

(III) AGGREGATED PRODUCTION DATA (INPUT/OUTPUT TABLES, PRODUCTION INDICES ETC.) ARE COMPILED IN MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND THE TARIFF-TRADE INFORMATION CAN BE AGGREGATED AND AVERAGED UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 MTN GE 07910 01 OF 02 171723Z

INTO CORRESPONDING CATEGORIES. HOWEVER, THESE CATEGORIES ARE NOT ALWAYS INTERNATIONALLY COMPARABLE AND THE AGGREGATED TRADE DATA AND TARIFF AVERAGES APPEAR TO BE LESS USEFUL FOR NEGOTIATION PURPOSES.

(IV) STATISTICS ON GROSS AND NET OUTPUT, INVESTMENT, STOCKS AND EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUPS (3-DIGITS OF THE ISIC) ARE COMPILED IN MOST COUNTRIES AND PUBLISHED ANNUALLY BY THE

UNITED NATIONS (THE GROWTH OF WORLD INDUSTRY, LATEST ISSUE RELATING TO 1962-71).

4. STATISTICS COMPILED IN THE OTHER COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS PARTICULARLY IN THE LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ARE STILL LESS COMPREHENSIVE AND PROBLEMS OF CONCORDANCE BETWEEN TARIFF/TRADE AND PRODUCTION STATISTICS OCCUR EVEN MORE FREQUENTLY.

5. SINCE COLLECTION OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION STATISTICS COMPARABLE WITH THE TARIFF AND TRADE DATA IS USUALLY THE MOST IMPORTANT TASK, AND SINCE TRADE DATA POSE NO PROBLEMS, THE EXAMINATION OF THE DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE FOR SECTORAL STUDIES OF CHEMICALS, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON OUTPUT DATA. IN THIS FIELD, THE OECD AND THE UN/ECE LAUNCHED A MAJOR EFFORT TO COMPILE FOR THEIR MEMBER COUNTRIES PRODUCTION (OR SHIPMENT) STATISTICS COMPARABLE WITH TRADE DATA.

6. THE OECD AND THE UN/ECE COMPILATIONS ARE BASED ON THE SITC AND COVER 100 INDIVIDUAL ITEMS REPRESENTING THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PRODUCTS OF THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES, INCLUDING ELECTRIC AND OTHER POWER-GENERATING MACHINERY (SUCH AS STEAM BOILERS AND NUCLEAR REACTORS), TELECOMMUNICATION APPARATUS AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS. IN THE FIELD OF CHEMICALS, OVER THIRTY BASIC ORGANIC AND INORGANIC CHEMICALS ARE COVERED, AND ABOUT FORTY PRODUCTS OF THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, SUCH AS FERTILIZERS, PLASTIC MATERIALS, SYNTHETIC FIBRES, DYESTUFFS, SOAPS AND DETERGENTS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PHOTO AND CINEMA SUPPLIES, ETC. SO FAR, THE DATA HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED FOR THE PERIOD 1963-69 FOR ENGINEERING PRODUCTS AND UP TO 1973 WITH RESPECT TO CHEMICALS. THE SERIES ON ENGINEERING PRODUCTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE UPDATED TO 1972 BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR. THE PRODUCTS COVERED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 MTN GE 07910 01 OF 02 171723Z

THESE SERIES ARE LISTED IN THE ANNEX. COUNTRIES REPORTING SHIPMENTS (OR PRODUCTION) OF THESE GOODS AND THE JNITS (QUANTITY OR VALUE) IN WHICH THESE DATA ARE REPORTED BY THE OECD OR THE UN/ECE ARE ALSO SHOWN. THE SECRETARIAT HAS ALSO EXAMINED NATIONAL STATISTICAL SOURCES, AND WHERE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PRODUCTS INCLUDED IN THE OECD AND UN/ECE SURVEYS IS AVAILABLE, IT HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE ANNEX.

FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, PUBLICATIONS BY THE COMMUNITY'S STATISTICAL OFFICE HAVE ALSO BEEN CONSULTED. SINCE STATISTICS ARE NOT ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF NINE, DATA PUBLISHED BY THE COMMUNITY (AS WELL AS OECD AND UN/ECE) WITH RESPECT TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBER COUNTRIES ARE LISTED AT THE END OF THE ANNEX. FOR INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES AS A GROUP, THE OECD AND THE UN/ECE SHIPMENT (OR PRODUCTION) AND FOREIGN TRADE DATA

REPRESENT IN GENERAL THE BEST OF INTERNATIONALLY COMPARABLE
COMPILATIONS. IT COULD ONLY BE IMPROVED UPON THROUGH FURTHER
AND SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES.

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 07910 02 OF 02 171732Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01

TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 AF-06

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 MTN GENEVA 7910

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7. AS MAY BE SEEN FROM THE ANNEX, EVEN FOR THESE INDUSTRIES
A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL PROBLEMS ARISE. FOR INSTANCE:

(A) ALL COUNTRIES DO NOT REPORT EVERY PRODUCT COVERED BY THE
ENQUIRY EVEN IN CASES WHERE PRODUCTION IS IMPORTANT; THIS IS
PARTICULARLY FREQUENT FOR ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND CHEMICALS
IN THE EEC COUNTRIES WHERE CERTAIN PRODUCTION IS CONCENTRATED
IN ONE OR TWO ENTERPRISES. FOR THIS REASON, COMPREHENSIVE
FIGURES FOR THE EEC COMBINED COULD NOT BE SYSTEMATICALLY
OBTAINED.

(II) FOR ENGINEERING PRODUCTS THE DATA ON SHIPMENTS ARE IN
VALUE (CURRENT US DOLLARS), QUANTITY STATISTICS BEING AVAIL-
ABLE IN A FEW CASES ONLY. FOR CHEMICALS, ON THE OTHER HAND,
QUANTITIES ARE REPORTED MOST FREQUENTLY AND SHIPMENT VALUES
ARE EXCEPTIONAL; THE ABSENCE OF EITHER QUANTITY OR VALUE DATA
IS A SERIOUS LIMITATION SINCE THE VALUES AVAILABLE SO FAR

ARE IN MOST CASES AT PRE-1971 EXCHANGE RATES AND CANNOT
REASONABLY BE RELATED TO MORE RECENT TRADE VALUES. ALSO THE
QUANTITY UNITS IN WHICH OUTPUT IS REPORTED ARE NOT ALWAYS
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PAGE 02 MTN GE 07910 02 OF 02 171732Z

SATISFACTORY (THE UNITS ADOPTED IN PRODUCTION AND IN TRADE
STATISTICS ARE NOT ALWAYS THE SAME AND IMPORTANT PRODUCTION IN
OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD ALSO BE MISSED IN A NUMBER OF CASES. THE
QUANTITIES REPORTED ARE NOT MEANINGFUL IF THE PRODUCT CATEGORY
IS HETEROGENEOUS).

(III) THE PRODUCTION OR SHIPMENT DATA ARE IN GENERAL LESS
DETAILED THAN NATIONAL CUSTOMS TARIFFS.

(IV) DESPITE THE CARE TAKEN BY THE OECD STATISTICIANS, THE
CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE STATISTICS ON THE PRINCIPAL FACTORS
OF PRODUCTION (BASED ON ISIC) AND ON SHIPMENT OR OUTPUT (SITC
BASED) IS IMPERFECT.

8. AS INDICATED IN DOCUMENT SPEC(72)32, MORE DETAILED AND
COMPREHENSIVE PRODUCTION STATISTICS RELATED TO FOREIGN TRADE
CLASSIFICATION ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE NORDIC
COUNTRIES. THE DATA FOR THE UNITED STATES ARE REPORTED IN THE
5 TO 7-DIGIT DETAIL OF THE US STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFI-
CATION AND CAN BE CORRELATED WITH THE CUSTOMS TARIFF, THOSE FOR
THE NORDIC COUNTRIES ARE GENERALLY PUBLISHED IN THE SAME DETAIL
AS NATIONAL CUSTOMS TARIFF AND FOR SOME COUNTRIES ALSO AT THE
4 OR 5-DIGIT LEVEL OF THE SITC. THE SERIES ARE GENERALLY RE-
PORTED IN VALUE, QUANTITY DATA ARE AVAILABLE FOR A LARGE NUMBER
OF CHEMICAL, BUT ONLY FOR A FEW ENGINEERING GOODS, COMPARABLE
DATA ARE PUBLISHED FOR RECENT YEARS, GENERALLY UP TO 1971 OR
1972. COMPARABILITY OF LONGER-TERM SERIES WOULD IN SOME CASES
BE AFFECTED BY CHANGES IN CLASSIFICATIONS. PRODUCTION
STATISTICS FOR THE NINE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ARE
AT PRESENT AVAILABLE FOR ONLY A FEW PRODUCTS OF THE INDUS-
TRIES EXAMINED. THE COMMUNITY'S AND NATIONAL STATISTICAL
SERVICES ARE WORKING OUT PROGRAMMES FOR COLLECTION OF COMPRE-
HENSIVE PRODUCTION (OR SHIPMENT) STATISTICS BY INDUSTRIES;
THOSE ON ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, ELECTRONICS AND CHEMICALS COULD,
HOWEVER, NOT BE EXPECTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

9. FOR COUNTRIES NOT COVERED BY THE OECD SURVEYS INTERNA-
TIONALLY COMPARABLE PRODUCTION STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE
UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS. THE DATA ARE REPORTED IN QUAN-
TITIES AND COVER A LESS EXTENSIVE LIST OF COMMODITIES,
THE PRODUCT DEFINITIONS ARE BASED ON THE ISIC WHICH, IN TURN,
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PAGE 03 MTN GE 07910 02 OF 02 171732Z

IS MORE OR LESS DIRECTLY CORRELATED WITH SITC. THE DATA ON OUTPUT OF THE PRODUCTS ON THE OECD LIST WHICH ARE AVAILABLE IN THE US PUBLICATION FOR OTHER IMPORTANT PRODUCING COUNTRIES HAS ALSO BEEN SUMMARIZED IN THE ANNEX AND THE INFORMATION COMPLETED, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, BY NATIONAL SOURCES AVAILABLE IN THE GATT LIBRARY. THE UN SERIES EXTENDS OVER THE LAST DECADE (TO 1973) BUT DATA FOR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES ARE NOT ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR THE WHOLE PERIOD.

END TEXT.

DOCUMENT WITH ANNEXES WILL BE HAND CARRIED BY MARSH.
CULBERT

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Message Attributes

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